

Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee

Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Archie Cole Middle School Library

100 Cedar Avenue

East Greenwich, RI 02818

Those in attendance were: Dr. Deidre Gifford, Chair; Mr. David Green, Mr. Jack Sommer, and Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters. Mr. Robert Durant, Mrs. Susan Records, and Mr. Paul Martin were absent. Also present were Dr. Victor Mercurio, Superintendent; Mrs. Paula Dillon, Assistant Superintendent, and Mrs. Maryanne Crawford, Director of Administration.

6:35.m. Regular Meeting

The regular session of the East Greenwich School Committee was called to order in the library of the Archie Cole Middle School at 6:35p.m. by Chair Dr. Deidre Gifford.

I. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

II. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

III. Approval of Minutes

a. Regular and Executive for 12/6/11

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Green, the regular and executive minutes for 12/6/11 were approved 4-0.

IV. Recognitions

The following recognitions were made for Cole Middle School students:

- 1. Cole Middle School R.I. Jr. All-State Music Festival Participants**
- 2. Cole Middle School American Math Contest Winners**

V. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Mercurio reminded everyone there is a full day of school on Friday, December 23, 2011.

The first meeting of the grade reconfiguration ad hoc committee is tomorrow, December 21, 2011. The language task force will meet again on Thursday, December 22, 2011. Dr. Gifford and Dr. Mercurio attended a Race to the Top meeting last week at RIDE. Initiatives were reviewed and the teacher evaluation system was also discussed. Dr. Mercurio has been invited by Commissioner Gist to attend the Washington, D.C. conference in January regarding Race to the Top.

VI. School Committee Concerns

Dr. Gifford noted there are still some finance committee recommendations that need follow-up. These items will be on the January 3, 2012 agenda.

VII. Action Items

a. Appointment

1. EGHS Asst Girls' Basketball Coach-Tori Ahrens

On a motion by Mr. Green, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 4-0 to approve the appointment.

b. Field Trip-Cole, Day Trip, Waterville Valley, New Hampshire, January 7, 2012

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 4-0 to approve the field trip.

c. Home School Request

On a motion by Mr. Sommer, which was seconded by Mr. Green, the Committee voted 4-0 to approve the home school request.

d. First Read of Revised Policy

1. Policy # 8210 Home Schooling received a first read. Mrs. Dillon explained the policy has not changed; just the format. The new format outlines the responsibilities of the parent, school district, and School Committee. The policy notes the paperwork required for progress reporting, grading, and attendance. The policy and the process will be available for parents on the EGSD website. Mr. Green added the revised format will make it easier for parents to see their responsibilities and also clarifies the process. A School Committee cover sheet will be attached to each home school request which will annotate whether this is a new request or a continuation of request. Dr. Gifford would like language added that asks the parent to explain how they will provide “thorough and efficient instruction.” An example may be the curriculum that will be used, field trips to be taken, etc. Mrs. Dillon will revise the wording in this section. This policy will come back to the Committee on January 3, 2012 for a second read/adoption.

e. EGHS Program of Studies

Mr. Podraza detailed the seven suggested changes for the 2012 Program of Studies. Dr. Gifford asked for a percentage of special

education students who would also have a double dose of math by accessing the math lab (#6b). Mr. Green discussed the subject of civics and the constitution and questioned why they are absent from the program of studies. Mr. Podraza will find out when these topics were removed. He added that the Social Studies curriculum is up for review next year. In regards to #2, "Guidelines for Awarding Credit for Courses Taken Outside the Program of Studies," Dr. Gifford noted the policy committee needs to address this topic. Mr. Podraza explained that arbitrary course requirements such as prerequisites and seat limits have been removed from the Program of Studies. Dr. Gifford would like the Committee to have more time to review the Program of Studies and asked that this item be tabled for this evening and listed on the January 3, 2012 agenda.

VIII. Discussion Items

a. East Greenwich High School Library Renovations

Mr. Ken Romeo of SBS updated the Committee on the renovations. The rough electrical is complete on the first floor. The sheet rock will be installed this week and the ceiling prep has been ongoing. There are two issues regarding glazing and delivery. A job meeting is scheduled tomorrow to discuss glazing. SBS is working with Burman to rush the delivery date. SBS is setting up two alternate plans in case. The FFE delivery is scheduled to begin on December 28, 2011. Three chairs and a table will be late and will not arrive until January 5, 2012. The plan is still on track to move out of the old gym in February. Mr. Romeo has been in touch with town officials regarding the timing of the inspection. Mr. Sommer stated there is a

basketball event the weekend of January 16, 2012 and asked if materials can be moved if necessary. The completion date for the library renovations is Friday, December 30, 2011.

Griffin has completed their Cole inspection and the report has been sent to SMMA and Mr. Wilmarth. Omni, the distributor of the light controls, came to Cole last Thursday to investigate the problem. They are also waiting for the report. Mr. Romeo does not think he will have an answer by year's end. SBS has pressed Griffin for answers regarding the items that need to be addressed. Some of these items are warranty issues as it appears some items look aged for the amount of time they have been installed. Dr. Gifford asked if the district should ask for additional warranty protection so this does not happen again next year. Mr. Romeo and Mr. Wilmarth would like to wait until SMMA reports their findings. Mr. Romeo noted the indoor light situation has been resolved and the outdoor lights can be turned on and off manually. Dr. Gifford asked Mr. Romeo if the report and recommendations will be available in January. Mr. Romeo said they would be available.

b. Cole Math

Mrs. Pat Dulac, the Math Department Chair, discussed the Cole math program and also outlined the mathematics sequence by grade level.

This year grade seven students are either placed in Math 7 or Accelerated Math 7. Grade eight students are placed in either Math 8 or Eight Grade Algebra I. The math department previously offered

three courses per grade level and now offers two. The Committee discussed the changes and questioned whether parents understood the change in the program. Mrs. Meyer was asked to craft a message specifically outlining the change in math for next year's program of studies. The Committee also discussed the possibility of study skill classes that could take place before or after school.

c. EGHS Orchestra

The Committee discussed the orchestra program at the high school. Mr. Carniaux, the EGHS music teacher, discussed the program noting there is currently only a string orchestra class running during the day. A full orchestra class is not offered during or after school. Mr. Carniaux explained the history of the orchestra program noting scheduling changes and principal changes led to the elimination of the full orchestra during the day. Dr. Gifford asked Dr. Mercurio to discuss the program with the principals and the music teachers to determine the need for an orchestra class during the day. Students may be surveyed to gauge interest. A recommendation will be forwarded to the School Committee.

IX. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Green, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 4-0 to adjourn at 8.32 p.m.

CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO

SECRETARY